

REMARKS

The rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 6,165,890 (Kohl et al), is respectfully traversed. Kohl et al discloses semiconductor devices that use air gaps to reduce capacitive coupling between conductors in such devices, which devices are made by a method which involves the use of a norbornene-type polymer as a sacrificial material, which polymer may be a homopolymer or copolymer comprising repeating units of at least one of formulae (I), (II), and (III), as shown therein (column 3, line 1 ff).

Kohl et al does not specifically describe any particular embodiment of a copolymer containing at least one repeating unit selected from repeating units represented by general formulae (1) to (3) and at least one repeating unit selected from repeating units represented by general formulae (4) to (7), as required by the present claims. Thus, Kohl et al does not anticipate the present invention.

In addition, the number of possibilities of polymers and copolymers in Kohl et al is immense, and if anything, directs persons of ordinary skill in the art away from the invention as claimed in above-amended Claim 1 (column 11, lines 21-31). Thus, the present invention is not otherwise unpatentable over Kohl et al.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The objection to Claims 1 and 2 is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

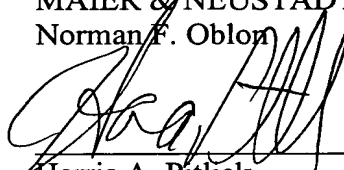
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability of Claims 2-7. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently-pending claims in this application are now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harris A. Pitlick', is written over a horizontal line.

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